

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 ( ISO ) W  
-----002260 081903Z /47

P R 081531Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7139  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
USDOCOSOUTH  
USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, RU, US  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS: PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENTIAL  
MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER

1. THE ATHENS PRESS AUGUST 8 HIGHLIGHTED THE DELIVERY TO  
PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS YESTERDAY OF A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM  
PRESIDENT CARTER BY AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY. ALL PAPERS PRINTED  
THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD CONVEYED A  
PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER FROM PRESIDENT  
CARTER WHICH WAS IN REPLY TO AN EARLIER MESSAGE WHICH KARAMANLIS  
HAD SENT THE PRESIDENT. THEY ALSO PICKED UP THE REMARKS OF  
THE GOG'S SPOKESMAN WHO, ON BACKGROUND AND NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION,  
INDICATED THAT THE MESSAGE EXPRESSED THE PRESIDENT'S FRIENDLY  
SENTIMENTS TOWARDS GREECE AND GAVE ASSURANCES THAT GREEK VIEWS  
WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE US IN FORMULATING ITS POLICIES FOR  
THIS PART OF THE WORLD. SUBSEQUENT TO HIS MEETING WITH THE  
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AMBASSADOR,  
THE PRIME MINISTER CONVENED A MEETING OF HIS GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
(THE SO-CALLED INNER CABINET) WHICH, ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENT, HAD EXAMINED THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER STEPS CONCERNING  
THE EMBARGO IN VIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE HOUSE-  
SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

2. THE GOG DID NOT RELEASE THE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT DID NOT GO BEYOND THE ABOVE IN BACK-GROUNDING THE PRESS ABOUT IT. NEVERTHELESS, ALL NEWSPAPERS SPECULATED THAT THE MESSAGE CONTAINED PERSONAL ASSURANCES FROM THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING GREECE'S SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE AREA. OTHERS SPECULATED THAT THE MESSAGE EXPRESSED WASHINGTON'S DESIRE TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SETTLEMENT OF GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES AND IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS QUESTION. ANOTHER POINT MADE WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE USG WOULD SUPPORT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "SPECIAL RELATONSHIP" WITH NATO. THE GOG REACTION, ACCORDING TO A GOOD PART OF THE PRESS, WAS ONE OF SATISFACTION (SOME PAPERS QUALIFIED THIS, HOWEVER, WITH ELEFTHEROTYPIA, FOR EXAMPLE, SAYING THE GOG GREETED THE MESSAGE WITH "RESERVATIONS") ALTHOUGH IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT GREECE MUST NOW WAIT FOR ACTIONS BEFORE DECIDING ON ITS OWN POSITION.

3. PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI CITED DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS AS SAYING THE PRESIDENT HAD ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT WEAPONS FOR TURKEY DELIVERED AFTER THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WOULD BE ONLY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES AND WITHIN THE NATO CONTEXT, AND THAT THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE REGION WOULD BE MAINTAINED. LIBERAL OPPOSITION TO VIMA HAD A MORE EXTENSIVE ACCOUNT OF WHAT WAS SUPPOSEDLY SAID IN THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER, ADDING ADDITIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINTS TO THOSE MADE BY OTHERS. FOR EXAMPLE, QUOTING "CONFIRMED INFORMATION", TO VIMA SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD ASSURED KARAMANLIS THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO DOES NOT MEAN GREEK VIEWS WOULD BE DISREGARDED. MORE SPECIFICALLY, ACCORDING TO TO VIMA, IN REFERRING TO GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES IN THE AEGEAN THE PRESIDENT HAD ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER FURTHER THAT THESE DIFFERENCES MUST BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY AND THE US WOULD OPPOSE ANY RESORT TO MILITARY ACTION. MOREOVER, WASHINGTON WOULD SUPPORT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE NEGOTIATION OF A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO, LEAVING THE IMPRESSION THAT FOLLOWING THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO TURKEY WOULD HAVE NO REASON FOR RAISING OBJECTIONS TO THIS.

4. FROM WASHINGTON, TO VIMA CORRESPONDENT EFSTATHIADIS SPECULATED THAT ANKARA HAD ALREADY ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE AN EVENTUAL AMERICAN MEDIATION OF GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS. THE TURKISH ACCEPTANCE, HE SAID, WAS IN RESPONSE TO AMERICAN SOUNDINGS CONDUCTED IN BOTH ANKARA AND WASHINGTON. AT THE SAME TIME EFSTATHIADIS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN HAD SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH US INITIATIVE DIRECTED AT EITHER ANKARA OR ATHENS AT THE PRESENT TIME. GREEK DIPLOMATIC SOURCES ALSO STATED THEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT US INITIATIVES, HE ADMITTED.

MCCLOSKEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, COMMUNIQUE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ATHENS06831  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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